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STOCKTON MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS FOR DRUG DISTRIBUTION

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that ANTONIO BARRAZA BAZUA, 30, formerly of Stockton, Calif., was sentenced today by United States District Judge Morrison C. England Jr., to 15 years in federal prison followed by a 10-year term of supervised release for drug possession and distribution.

This investigation was product of a joint investigation of the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration, Stockton Police Narcotics Unit, California Highway Patrol, the Western El Dorado County Narcotics Enforcement Team and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Richard Bender, who prosecuted the case, BAZUA pleaded guilty to possession of cocaine and methamphetamine with the intent to distribute—valued at over half a million dollars wholesale. In addition, almost \$140,000 were seized and forfeited—\$21,940 from a backpack along with three kilograms of cocaine inside a vehicle that BAZUA was driving, and \$117,570 from a house where 13 pounds of crystal methamphetamine and 11 pounds of cocaine were located on September 5, 2007.

The drugs had been smuggled into the United States from Mexico and were being distributed to dealers in the Central Valley. Judge England, in sentencing the defendant, said that sheer amount of drugs involved in the case required the lengthy sentence.

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